

INTERFACE OVERVIEW

1.0. OPERATIONAL POLICIES AND CONSTRAINTS

DEERS and its interfacing systems operate under the following policies and constraints:

- Standard Provider, Payer, and Patient IDs will be used, as legislated under HIPAA when these ID's are mandated for implementation

2.0. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

2.1. Interface

DEERS supports various interfaces to systems within the MHS and outside the MHS including CMS and the state Medicaid agencies.

Major communities that DEERS interfaces with include:

- Composite Health Care System (CHCS)
- DoD service personnel systems
- MHS clinical systems
- MHS Data Repository (MDR)
- Managed Care Support Contractors (MCSCs)/claims processors
- **USFHP Providers**
- Health benefits advisors and other users throughout the Continental United States (CONUS) and Outside Continental United States (OCONUS) via the Government Inquiry of DEERS (GIQD) application
- **Pharmacy Data Transaction System (PDTs)**
- Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) administrator
- **TRICARE Dental contractors**
- Other organizations as identified

2.2. DEERS Operational Environment and Characteristics

The DEERS system environment consists of a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS), rules-based applications processing DoD entitlements and eligibility, a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) sockets listener, application servers that enforce business rules, and web servers.

DEERS provides client/server applications, web applications, and system to system interfaces.

The government provides the MCSCs/USFHP providers with several Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) applications including:

- DOES
- CHO Maintenance
- Civilian PCM Maintenance
- General Eligibility Application
- CC&D Research (MCSC only)
- OHI Maintenance Application
- Line of Duty Application
- Security Application

2.2.1. Client Server Requirements

DOES is a required GFE client server application that supports enrollment and research functions.

The Civilian PCM Maintenance application is a required GFE client server application used to perform Civilian PCM Panel Reassignments. This is a companion application to DOES. If authorized for both applications, the user can access either application once they have successfully completed the common login.

The following is the “minimal” hardware and software requirements for all workstations running the DOES and Civilian PCM Maintenance applications client server applications will operate over the NIPRNet. It is based on the same standard for running Microsoft Windows 2000. Like Microsoft Windows 2000, it is strongly suggested that workstations running the DOES and Civilian PCM Maintenance application exceed the minimal requirements for optimal performance.

2.2.1.1. Hardware Platform

At a minimum, the hardware platform will consist of a 1 Gigahertz (GHz) or faster Pentium compatible CPU with a minimum of 256 MB RAM and a minimum display resolution of 800 x 600. These minimum requirements are solely for the purpose of running the DOES and Civilian PCM Maintenance applications in a Microsoft Windows 2000 environment. It is strongly suggested that workstations running applications in addition to these exceed these minimal requirements for optimal performance.

2.2.2. Operating System

Microsoft Windows 2000. MCSCs shall plan for operating systems upgrades consistent with ongoing Microsoft releases. System upgrades shall be coordinated with DMDC through TMA.

2.2.3. Disk Space

Microsoft Windows 2000 recommends a minimum hard drive of 2 Gigabytes.

2.2.4. Web Requirements

General Inquiry of DEERS (GIQD) is a web-based GFE application used for research purposes that displays demographics, coverage and PCM assignment information. GIQD is available to the MCSC upon request through the Contracting Officer.

The Cat Cap and Deductible Research Application is a web-based GFE application that supports research on the history of Catastrophic Cap and Deductible transactions posted to DEERS.

The OHI Maintenance Application is a web-based GFE application that is primarily used by CHCS. It allows add, update, and cancellation of OHI policies as well as SIT carrier adds, updates and cancellations. This application is available to the MCSC/**USFHP provider** upon request through the Contracting Officer.

GIQD and the Cat Cap and Deductible Research Application require the MCSC/**USFHP** to use Netscape 4.0 or higher, or Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher browser using HTTPS.

The LOD Application is a web-based GFE application that is used by the MCSC/**USFHP** in claims processing to determine the specific injury that is covered under a LOD coverage plan. This application is available to the MCSC/**USFHP** upon request through the Contracting Officer.

The Security application is available in a client server **and** web-based version. This required GFE application is used by the MCSC/**USFHP provider** to establish users and grant access to applications and other privileges. The MCSC/**USFHP provider** is responsible for designating one site security manager and one backup to manage all users and their access to DEERS applications. The MCSC/**USFHP provider** is required to remove access to all DEERS systems immediately upon departure of an employee from performing the function.

2.2.5. System To System Interactions**FIGURE 3-1.4-1 SYSTEM TO SYSTEM INTERACTION**

REFERENCE CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.5 PARAGRAPH	BUSINESS EVENT	SENDING NODE	RECEIVING NODE	FORMAT	FREQUENCY
1.4.	Notification of Policy Information This message sends a new image of demographic, address, policy, PCM, fee, and other pass through information.	DEERS	MCSC USFHP provider	Variable Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven

TRICARE SYSTEMS MANUAL 7950.1-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.4

INTERFACE OVERVIEW

FIGURE 3-1.4-1 SYSTEM TO SYSTEM INTERACTION (CONTINUED)

REFERENCE CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.5 PARAGRAPH	BUSINESS EVENT	SENDING NODE	RECEIVING NODE	FORMAT	FREQUENCY
1.4.3.	Notification of Patient ID Change (This is a publish and subscribe model.)	DEERS	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS	XML	Weekly
1.6.1.	Health Care Coverage Inquiry	MCSC Claims Processor	DEERS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.2.	Health Care Coverage Response	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor	Variable Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.3.	Partial Match Response to a Health Care Coverage Inquiry	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor	Variable Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.3.	Health Care Coverage Error Acknowledgement	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.4.1.	Cat Cap & Deductible Totals Inquiry	MCSC Claims Processor	DEERS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.4.1.4.	Cat Cap and Deductible Totals Response	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor	Variable Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.5.	CAT/CAP and Deductible Update	MCSC Claims Processor	DEERS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.6.1.6.	CAT/CAP and Deductible Update Acknowledgement	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.7.1.	OHI Policy Inquiry	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	DEERS	X12 or Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.7.1.4.	OHI Policy Inquiry Response	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	X12 or Variable Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.7.2., 1.7.3., 1.7.4.	OHI Policy Add/Update/ Cancellation	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS	DEERS	X12 or Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven

TRICARE SYSTEMS MANUAL 7950.1-M, AUGUST 1, 2002

CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.4

INTERFACE OVERVIEW

FIGURE 3-1.4-1 SYSTEM TO SYSTEM INTERACTION (CONTINUED)

REFERENCE CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.5 PARAGRAPH	BUSINESS EVENT	SENDING NODE	RECEIVING NODE	FORMAT	FREQUENCY
1.7.2., 1.7.3., 1.7.4.	OHI Policy Add/Update/ Cancellation Acknowledgement	DEERS	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS	X12 or Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.8.5.	Unsolicited OHI Policy Termination Notification Sent by DEERS when a Carrier is deactivated or cancelled by the DOD SIT Validation Office	DEERS	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.8.2., 1.8.3., 1.8.4.	SIT Add/Update/Cancellation	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	DEERS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.8.5.	SIT Add/Update/Cancellation Acknowledgement	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.8.5.	Unsolicited Temporary Carrier Validation Notification Provided to interested parties on a OHI policy basis when the temporary carrier has been validated by the DOD SIT validation agency.	DEERS	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven
1.8.5.	Publish and Subscribe for the SIT Table Change Any change to the SIT Table (e.g., adds, deactivation, temp to perm on a carrier ID, or updates) requires all holders of the SIT to download the SIT.	MCSC Claims Processor USFHP provider CHCS	DEERS	XML	Check Nightly
1.2.5.1.	PCM Interface Sending node organizations send add, update, deactivation records.	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS EWPS	DEERS	Batch: Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Nightly
1.2.5.1.	PCM Interface Acknowledgement DEERS sends a one for one acknowledgement for each add, update, or deactivation.	MCSC USFHP provider CHCS EWPS	DEERS	Batch: Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Nightly
1.2.8.3./ 1.2.6.1.	Batch Fee Payment/Failure To Pay Fees	MCSC USFHP provider	DEERS	Batch: Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event Driven

FIGURE 3-1.4-1 SYSTEM TO SYSTEM INTERACTION (CONTINUED)

REFERENCE CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1.5 PARAGRAPH	BUSINESS EVENT	SENDING NODE	RECEIVING NODE	FORMAT	FREQUENCY
1.2.8.3.	Batch Fee Payment Acknowledgement/ Failure To Pay Fees	DEERS	MCSC USFHP provider	Batch: Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Event D Driven
1.9.	File of CMS Information	DEERS	MCSC	FTP Fixed Length DEERS Defined	Monthly

2.3. DEERS Major System Components

Major components of DEERS include:

- Person repository
- Patient repository
- National Enrollment Database
- Centralized catastrophic cap and deductible repository
- PCM repository
- OHI/SIT repository

2.4. External Systems

All system to system interfaces to DEERS must use TCP/IP, FTP, HTTP, or HTTPS as specified by DEERS

- DEERS utilizes standard message protocols where appropriate
- DEERS defines the content and format of messages between DEERS and the MCSC
- DEERS and MCSC's and **USFHP providers** must utilize encryption for all messages that contain privacy level information
- DEERS specifies the method of encryption and authentication for all external interfaces (see [Chapter 1, Section 1.1, paragraph 4.1.](#), DEERS and MHS Telecommunications)
- All notifications are sent as full database images; they are not transaction-based. The MCSC must accept and apply the full image sent by DEERS. The MCSC or **USFHP provider** should add the information, if not present in their system. The MCSC or **USFHP provider** should update their system, if the information is present, by replacing their information with what is newly received from DEERS. Notifications are only intended to synchronize the most current information between DEERS and the MCSC. They do not synchronize history.
- DMDC centrally enforces all business rules for enrollment and enrollment-related events

- DEERS is the database of record for all eligibility and enrollment information

2.4.1. Data Sequencing

Since DEERS is tasked with resolving data conflicts from external systems using rules-based applications, the MCSC shall ensure proper data sequencing of transactions sent to DEERS. This aids in maintaining data validity and integrity.

